

April 2022



CONSULAR NEWS LETTER

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Hello everyone,

I'm Doni Phillips, the Deputy Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Scammers often take advantage of individuals and families by promising them visas, especially as many anticipate summer travel plans. Often these scenarios have individuals or families pay lots of money only to find out later that they are a victim of fraud. This sort of scam is unfortunately common and recurring, but it can be avoided. I hope you read the "Ask the Consul" section which includes great information and guidance to avoid such scams. Always remember that the U.S. Embassy will never ask you to pay outside of official channels and you can double-check the fee amounts for visa and citizenship services on our [Embassy website](#).

The Embassy has a great series of videos with tips to avoid scams. Here are three that are especially relevant: 1) [Moun kap fe raket](#); 2) [Sou peman pou viza](#); and, 3) [Rakete](#). If you or someone you know are looking to apply for a visa, U.S. passport, or are seeking another Embassy service, please share these resources.

Next, the CDC has just lowered its COVID-19 Travel Health Notice for Haiti to a [Level 1: Low Level of COVID-19 in Haiti](#). This does not change current travel requirements, and the CDC recommends that all travelers are fully vaccinated. This health notice is different than the State Department's Travel Advisory for Haiti, which is still at its highest rating: "Level 4: Do Not Travel" due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest.

Doni Phillips
Deputy Consul General

Ask the Consul

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This month, we're providing more information on fraud prevention tips and resources to make sure you do not fall for scams.

Q: A “visa consultant” has offered to help me improve my chances of getting a U.S. visa. What should I do?

A: Remember that only consular officers make decisions on visa applications. No one else can guarantee the issuance of a visa to you. Beware of individuals or businesses who say they can obtain a visa or a passport for you — they may actually hurt your chances of getting a visa. All U.S. government forms are free and the fees you should expect to pay can be found on the [Embassy website here](#).

Q: What can I do to ensure my Embassy appointment goes smoothly?

A: Come to your interview prepared with your complete application and genuine, original documents. Be wary of people who promise to obtain documents quickly—you can get birth, marriage, divorce, and death extracts from SogeExpress and UniTransfer in Haiti. Presenting fraudulent documents could result in a permanent ineligibility. Please read the [instructions on our website](#) carefully and only trust information from U.S. Embassy sources.

Keep in mind that the purpose of the interview is to simply determine whether you meet the requirements for a visa or citizenship document. Remain calm, listen to the questions carefully, and answer all questions honestly.

Q: I think I may be a victim of fraud. What should I do?

A: If you are a victim of U.S. passport or visa fraud, please report the problem to papfraud@state.gov. When reporting fraud, be sure to include as much information as possible. If you have information that will help us protect the integrity of the visa and U.S. citizenship process, please let us know. Your information will be considered anonymous and treated as strictly confidential.

Useful Links

- [State Dept. Fraud Tips](#)
- [Video: Visa Payments](#)
- [Video: Scammers](#)
- PAPFRAUD@state.gov

The U.S. Embassy has some helpful videos, all in Creole, with tips to avoid common scams:

- [Moun kap fe raket](#)
- [Sou peman pou viza](#)
- [Rakete](#)

National Arab American Heritage Month

April is National Arab American Heritage Month. The U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [shared a statement](#):

“This month, we recognize National Arab American Heritage Month and honor the contributions of this diverse community to America. Immigrants with origins from the Arab world have been arriving to the United States since before our country’s independence and have contributed to our nation’s advancements in science, business, technology, foreign policy, and national security. The litany is long and includes Private Nathan Badeen, a Syrian immigrant who fought and gave his life during the American Revolution.

“At the State Department, we recognize tremendous diplomats such as Ambassador Philip Habib, former Under Secretary for Political Affairs, who played a prominent role in the Vietnam peace talks resulting in the 1973 Paris Peace Accords and later successfully pursued a ceasefire in Lebanon. We also recognize Ambassador Selwa “Lucky” Roosevelt, who served the President and Secretary of State as the Chief of Protocol of the United States from 1982-1989, nearly seven years and longer than anyone else prior. The Department is fortunate to have had these and so many other talented Arab American colleagues, who strive every day to protect and promote the interests and values of the American people, while representing the United States to the world.”

Ramadan

Ramadan began around Saturday April 2 and is expected to end approximately on Sunday, May 1.

President Joseph Biden said, “Jill and I extend our best wishes to Muslim communities here in the United States and around the world... For so many around the globe, including fellow Americans all across the country, this sacred month is a time for reflection and spiritual growth. Communities come together to practice forgiveness and resilience, to show compassion and generosity of spirit to those in need, of giving, and to celebrate the many blessings of life with loved ones.”

Read President Biden’s [full statement here](#).



Health Resources & COVID-19

COVID-19

For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, please visit the [Embassy website](#). You'll find information about:

- **Where to get vaccinated**
- **Where to get tested**
- **Entry/exit requirements**
- **Quarantine guidelines**

Haiti—Level 1: Low Level of COVID-19

Make sure you are vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Haiti. Anyone 2 years or older should properly wear a well-fitting mask in indoor public spaces. [Learn more from the CDC](#).

General Health Guidance

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the Embassy website for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the Embassy website for a list of Air Ambulance Services.

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Protect
From
COVID-19.



Useful Links

- [Embassy COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Travel Requirements](#)
- [Air Ambulance Services](#)
- [Hospitals in Haiti](#)

Haiti—Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest.

If you are in Haiti:

- Sign-up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in case of emergency. Enroll here: step.state.gov
- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cellphone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Do not physically resist any robbery or kidnapping attempt.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter; avoid travel after dark in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.

**STEP**

Smart Traveler
Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Contact Info

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Email

- American Citizen Services: acspap@state.gov
- Visas: support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com

Phone

+509-2229-8000

Websites

- [American Citizen Services Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Website](#)

Address

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince
Boulevard 15 Octobre
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Useful Links

- [U.S. Embassy Facebook](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Twitter](#)
- [Haiti Travel Advisory](#)
- [American Citizen Services Facebook](#)
- [American Citizen Services Twitter](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Make an ACS Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Information in Haiti](#)

This newsletter is published by the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please pass this newsletter along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, sign up through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at acspap@state.gov.